

## Message Text

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60

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

( ISO ) W

----- 079032

R 281404Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8066

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0138

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, EINV, DM, US

SUBJ: INDEMNIFICATION OF TEXACO AND MOBIL

REF A - COTONOU 130, B - COTONOU 115,

1. DCM MET JAN 27 WITH FORNMIN DIR FOR WESTERN EUROPE/NORTH AMERICAN EDLMOND CAKPO TO GO OVER GROUND COVERED IN AMB/ CAKPO TELECON JAN 23 (REF B) IN MORE DETAIL.

2. CAKPO REPORTED THAT ON JAN 26 THE MIN OF FINANCE SENT LETTERS TO TEXACO AND MOBIL INFORMING THEM THAT THE BENIN GOVT WOULD BE PREPARED TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR COMPENSATING THEM ANY- TIME AFTER FEB 20. HOWEVER CAKPO DID NOT HAVE COPIES OF THE LETTERS. HE PROMISED TO SEND THEM TO EMBASSY UNDER COVER OF NOTE SOMETIME JAN 28.

3. DCM REITERATED POINTS MADE TO CAKPO FOUR DAYS EARLIER BY AMB THAT WE WELCOME NEWS OF BENINESE GOVT'S INTENTION TO TAKE INITIAL STEPS TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS, BUT (CON- CONFIDENTIAL

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TRARY TO EXPECTATIONS CAKPO EXPRESSED ON THAT OCCASION), WE

DO NOT BELIEVE THIS NEWS WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO HAVE DECISIVE EFFECT. WE ARE SURE PROGRESS WILL BE MEASURED IN WASHINGTON IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONCRETE DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEGOTIATIONS. NOR WOULD FULL SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS BE SUFFICIENT TO RESOLVE ALL PROBLEMS RE AID LOANS, THOUGH IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE GENERALLY HELPFUL TO OVERALL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. DCM ALSO MADE POINT, WHICH WE HAVE MADE HERE REPEATEDLY AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL DURING PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, THAT THERE IS A DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN AID AND THE GENERAL STATE OF USG-BENIN RELATIONS (WHICH WERE AFFECTED BY BENIN'S ACTIONS IN MULTILATERAL FORA.).

4. DCM ALSO WENT THROUGH ADJIBADE'S SUMMIT SPEECH AT ADDIS WITH CAKPO, NOTING THE INACCURACIES AND MISREPRESENTATIONS RE USG ROLE IN ANGOLA (REF A).

5. COMMENT: PURPOSE OF CALL WAS TO PROMOTE FOREIGN MINISTRY PROFESSIONAL LEVEL KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF INDEMNIFICATION PROBLEM, SO AS TO ENABLE THOSE FUNCTIONARIES TO EXPLAIN IT TO BENIN'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP (IF INDEED THE LATTER SHOULD CONSULT THEM). PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT MINISTERS AND EVEN CIVIL SERVANTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED FULL EXPLANATIONS TWO OR THREE TIMES EITHER DO NOT RETAIN THE INFO OR PROFESS NOT TO RECALL IT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMPENSATION, INDEMNIFICATION, NEGOTIATIONS, BUSINESS LOSSES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 COTONOU 130, 76 COTONOU 115  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INDEMNIFICATION OF TEXACO AND MOBIL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EAID, EINV, DM, US, TEXACO, MOBIL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006